

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A press belt (1) made from an elastomer material and forming a closed loop, the belt having an inner surface (2) and an outer surface (3) and three layers of reinforcement yarns (7', 5', 6') arranged inside the elastomer material, an innermost yarn layer (5) closest to the inner surface (2) being formed by longitudinal and transversely adjacent reinforcement yarns (5') of the press belt, and a middle yarn layer (6) being formed by transverse longitudinally adjacent reinforcement yarns (6') of the press belt (1), ~~characterized in that~~ wherein an outermost yarn layer (7) closest to the outer surface of the press belt (1) is formed by longitudinal and transversely adjacent reinforcement yarns (7') of the press belt (1), which absorb energy and are restored from deformation with delay in connection with deformation.

2. (Currently Amended) A press belt as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the material and/or structure of the reinforcement yarns (7') of the outermost yarn layer (7) are more flexible than the reinforcement yarns (6') of the middle yarn layer (6).

3. (Currently Amended) A press belt as claimed in claim 1 or 2, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the material and/or structure of the reinforcement yarns (7') of the outermost yarn layer (7) are more flexible than the reinforcement yarns (5', 6') of the inner yarn layers (5, 6) in such a manner that in connection with deformation of the press belt (1) they absorb more energy and are restored from the deformation more slowly than the yarns (5', 6') of the other yarn layers (5, 6).

4. (Currently Amended) A press belt as claimed in claim 1 or 2, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the material and/or structure of the reinforcement yarns (5') of the innermost yarn layer (5) are more flexible than the reinforcement yarns (7') of the outermost yarn layer (7).

5. (Currently Amended) A press belt as claimed in ~~any one of~~ claims 1 to 4, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the reinforcement yarns (7') of the outermost yarn layer (7) are multifilament yarns twisted at a high twist level.

6. (Currently Amended) A press belt as claimed in ~~any one of~~ claims 1 to 5, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the reinforcement yarns (5', 6') of some inner yarn layer (5, 6) being multifilament yarns, the reinforcement yarns (7') of the outermost yarn layer (7) are twisted at a higher twist level than the former.

7. (Currently Amended) A press belt as claimed in ~~any one of the preceding~~ claims 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the outer yarn layer (7) is composed of a plurality of mutually parallel separate reinforcement yarns (7').

8. (Currently Amended) A press belt as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1 to 4,~~  
~~characterized in that~~ wherein the outermost yarn layer (7) is composed of one or  
more adjacent reinforcement yarns (7') twisted spiral-like in the transverse direction of the  
press belt (1).

9. (Currently Amended) A press belt as claimed in ~~any one of the preceding claims 1,~~  
~~characterized in that~~ wherein at least a part of the inner yarn layers (5; 6) is  
composed of a plurality of mutually parallel separate reinforcement yarns (5'; 6') in the same  
layer.

10. (Currently Amended) A press belt as claimed in ~~any one of the preceding claims~~  
~~1, characterized in that~~ wherein the innermost yarn layer (5) is composed of one or  
more spiral-like adjacent reinforcement yarns (5') twisted in the transverse direction of the  
press belt (1).